

REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3 are pending in the present application. By the present amendment, Claim 1 is amended, and a marked-up copy is attached hereto. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,896,253 (Dirne et al.). Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dirne et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,227,940 (Isomura et al.).

As to the independent Claim 1, now amended, the thin film magnetic head includes a lower yoke, a magnetoresistive element, an upper yoke, and electrode terminals. The support for the amendment is found in the Specification on pages 6-7 and Fig. 5. As illustrated in Fig. 5 of the present application, the lower yoke 40, the MR element 43, and the upper yoke 41 are formed on a substrate 60. The both ends of the MR element 43 are connected to the electrode terminals, and the MR head is arrayed on the substrate 60.

All of these elements of Claim 1 are not disclosed in the Dirne et al. reference. Instead, the Dirne et al. reference discloses, inter alia, a thin-film magnetic head made up of a substrate, a layer structure, and a counterblock (Dirne et al. col. 3, lines 38-46). This fails to disclose the claimed elements of the amended Claim 1 such as the upper and lower yokes. Thus, the Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1, as amended, is now considered to be in condition for allowance and respectfully requests an indication thereof.

As to dependent Claims 2-3, the Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are allowable at least since they are dependent on the independent Claim 1 that is considered to be allowable.

For the reasons set forth above, the Applicants respectfully submit that the Claims 1-3 pending in this application are in condition for allowance over the art of record. This amendment is considered to be responsive to all points raised in the Office Action. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and earnestly solicit an indication of allowable subject matter. Should the Examiner have any remaining questions or concerns, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone to expeditiously resolve such concerns.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 8/15/02

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Richard Streit", written over a horizontal line.

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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application:	Yasuhiko SHINJO et al.]	
]	
Serial No:	09/504,964]	GRP ART UNIT: 2652
]	
Filed:	February 16, 2000]	Ex.: Tianjie CHEN
]	
For:	MAGNETIC HEAD DEVICE]	

CLAIMS-MARKED UP VERSION

Claims 1-3 are currently pending in the present application.

Please amend Claim 1 as set forth below.

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1. (Once Amended) A magnetic head device comprising:

a base member;

a thin-film magnetic head which is in contact with the base member and is accommodated in a non-magnetic layer, with a magnetic gap being exposed, wherein the thin-film magnetic head comprises a lower yoke, a magnetoresistive element, an upper yoke, and electrode terminals;

an auxiliary member which sandwiches the non-magnetic layer between the auxiliary member and the base member; and

a slider surface on which magnetic tape slides in one of a first direction along which the base member, the non-magnetic layer, and the auxiliary member are arranged, and a second direction which is inclined at a predetermined angle to the first direction.